

Testimony in support of HB 6526 An Act Concerning Electric Suppliers

I am in full support of this bill.

It would eliminate any cancellation fee when switching from third-party electric supplier back to standard service. So many of these contracts, which seem too good to be true, have turned out to be just that, with customers paying more than they would have had they been on standard service. From 2015 to 2020, the people of Connecticut paid more than \$274 million more than they would have under “standard service”. People should not have to also pay a fee to get out of a bad contract!

These suppliers contribute few jobs to the Connecticut economy. Sales people for the third-party suppliers are mostly out-of-state or bused into CT for a day of door-to-door sales, preying on seniors and those whose first language is not English. We need to strengthen regulations on these agents.

We need to immediately ban the existing 25,000 variable-rate contracts that were allowed to be “grandfathered” in. Just look at what happened to variable rate contracts in Texas!

Since many agents also prey on those getting assistance for their electric bills, it means the rest of us are footing the bill for these higher supplier rates. Anyone on public assistance should be on standard rate.

The Public Utilities Regularity Agency is playing wack-a-mole with trying to get unscrupulous third-party suppliers out of the market, time that could be used instead to help and educate consumers.

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